

europ physics

news



BULLETIN OF THE EUROPEAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY

No. 8 March 1970

Council Session in Paris

On 12 and 13 February a Session of the Council of the European Physical Society was held in Paris at the Headquarters of the CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique), on the invitation of the Director-General H. Curien (who is a member of the Executive Committee of the EPS). The Session was sponsored by the CNRS with the cooperation of the French Physical Society.

The items discussed concerned principally the activities of the Specialized Divisions and Advisory Committees and the financial state of the Society. Two further National Societies have been accepted as Ordinary Members (the Norwegian Physical Society and the Portuguese Physics and Chemistry Society). Two Specialized Divisions were set up — a Nuclear Physics Division and a High Energy and Elementary Particle Physics Division. In addition, an Inter-Divisional Group on Computational Physics was constituted.

The week of 9 to 14 February was a period of hectic activity in Paris for the EPS. On Monday and Tuesday the Advisory Committees on the proposed EPS Bulletin and on Publications met. On Wednesday the Executive Committee had its pre-Council meeting to prepare the material for the following two days. The Council Session itself was attended by forty delegates representing Individual Ordinary Members, National Physical Societies, Groups and Academies. In addition, the Chairman of the Specialized Divisions and Advisory Committees were present to report on the work of these bodies.

Present State of the EPS

L. Jansen, Secretary of the Executive Committee, reviewed the development of the EPS since the Council Session on 14 July 1969 in Vienna: Since that time the activities of five Specialized Divisions have been developing:

Atomic Spectroscopy Division:

Chairman: A. Kastler

Condensed Matter Division:

Chairman: S.F. Edwards

Low Temperature Physics Division:

Chairman: C.J. Gorter

Plasma Physics Division:

Chairman: B. Lehnert

Quantum Electronics Division:

Chairman: K.P. Meyer.

In Vienna, the Council had accepted these Divisions for a period of two

years with re-adjustments to be made after that period if appropriate. Certain aspects concerning the Divisions had been left for future decision (for example, the issue of membership of a Division) and the Paris Council Session pronounced itself on such issues as covered below.

Since the time of the Vienna Council Session, six Advisory Committees to the Executive Committee have been active:

Conference Committee:

Chairman: G.H. Stafford

EPS Bulletin Committee:

Chairman: N.R. Nilsson

Fundraising Committee:

Chairman: L. Cohen

Physics and Industry:

Chairman: O.G. Folberth

Physics and Society:

Chairman: M. Kersten (ad interim)

Publications Committee:

Chairman: J. de Boer

A Committee on Summer Schools and Student Exchange is planned, but is as yet not constituted. The Committee on Physics and Industry, is now to be known under a new name, namely "Applied Physics and Physics in Industry". It embodies the most recent pre-occupation of the EPS with physics in Europe. Its task is essential and the outcome of its efforts may well decide whether or not the EPS can truly represent the interests of the whole community of physicists.

Together with the Specialized Divisions, the Advisory Committees are generating an enormous pressure to develop the activities of the EPS. This

demonstrates clearly the need for a European Physical Society. But in order to sustain all these activities, the EPS must dispose of the necessary funds and, unfortunately, the Society is lagging seriously behind expectations in this respect. The most conspicuous reason for this is that, at present, the number of Individual Ordinary Members is much too low (640 up to the time of the Paris Session instead of a necessary 5000 to cover an anticipated one-third of the budget). The National Societies and Academies were urgently requested to draw the attention of their members to the fact that they have the right to join the EPS as Individual Ordinary Members at one quarter of the normal subscription fee and can thus help the EPS directly in attaining its goals.

As no working capital was available to the EPS at the time of its foundation, it is of the utmost importance that its revenue develops at the same pace as its activities. In addition, urgent steps must be taken to bridge the gap which exists at the moment. A co-ordinated campaign, together with the National Societies, to gain a maximum number of Associate Members must be started without delay. To promote Associate Membership, the Executive Committee proposed that the minimum yearly contribution for Associate Members should be set at 1000 Sw. frs., since it has appeared that for many smaller industries or laboratories the previous minimum of 2000 Sw. frs., was too high. (The Council later agreed to this proposal.)

Specialized Divisions

Considerable time was spent by the Council on specifying the frame of reference for the work of the Specialized Divisions, which had been left largely undetermined in Vienna. On the one hand, Divisions must have maximum freedom to develop their activities, especially in the initial period. On the other hand, the development of a Division must be in harmony with the development of the EPS as a whole. To achieve these goals, the Executive Committee had worked out a set of working rules to be considered as a frame of reference which, with minor modifications, were adopted by the Council:

1. According to Articles 2.2 and 20.3f of the Constitution, a Specialized Division is a part of the EPS. Consequently, members of a Division are members of the EPS categories 4a, 4b or 4c, and Fellows. Membership of a Division shall not involve any ad-

ditional fee to the Society (By-laws Rule 39).

2. Society Members, i.e. members of adhering National Societies, Groups or Laboratories are free to participate in all activities of a Specialized Division, except in decisions. In addition, Specialized Divisions may invite others to participate in their activities, for example, as members of Organizational Committees for Conferences.

3. Ordinary Members and Fellows of the EPS may, but need not be, also members of one or more Specialized Divisions.

4. Members of the Board of a Specialized Division must be Individual Ordinary Members of the EPS category 4a or 4c, Fellows or Delegates of Ordinary Members category 4b.

In particular, these rules specify the issue of membership of a Division, placing all authority in decision taking in the hands of Ordinary Members of the EPS, while at the same time securing the right of participation in acti-

vities of a Division to Society Members as defined under 2 above.

The Council accepted the following new Specialized Divisions:

High Energy and Elementary Particle Physics Division

Chairman: P. Preiswerk (ad interim).

The presentation of this new Division at the Council Session was made by A. Berthelot. An outline of the scope and programme of the Division is given later in this issue.

Nuclear Physics Division

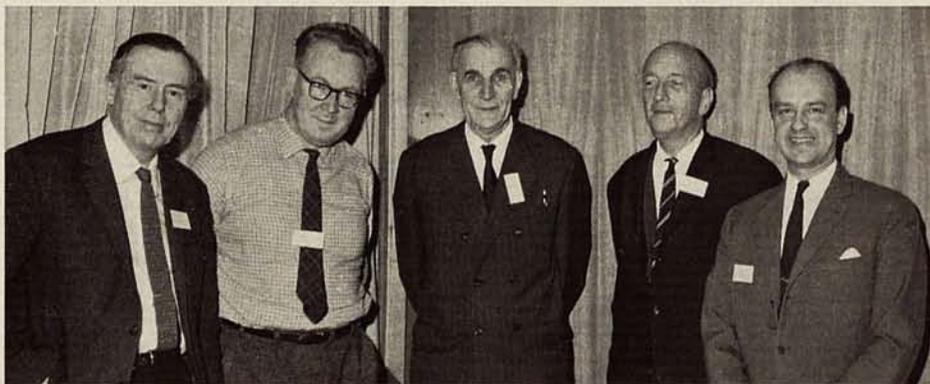
Chairman: L.L. Green (ad interim).

The presentation of this new Division at the Council Session was made by W. Gentner. An outline of the scope and programme of the Division is given later in this issue.

Inter-Divisional Group: Computational Physics Group

Chairman: G.R. Macleod (ad interim).

The Council examined a request received from G.R. Macleod, on behalf



Photographed during the Council Session in Paris:

1. Chairmen of the Divisions of the EPS. Left to right — K.P. Meyer (Quantum Electronics), S.F. Edwards (Condensed Matter), A. Kastler (Atomic Spectroscopy), C.J. Gorter (Low Temperature Physics), B. Lehnert (Plasma Physics).



2. Chairmen of the Advisory Committees of the EPS. Left to right — G.H. Stafford (Conferences), N.R. Nilsson (EPS Bulletin), J. de Boer (Publications), O.G. Folberth (Applied Physics and Physics in Industry), M. Kersten (Physics and Society). L. Cohen (Fundraising Committee) was absent when the photograph was taken.

(Photos CNRS)

of an ad hoc Committee, concerning the formation of a Specialized Division on Computational Physics. The proposal was orally presented by B. McNamara, Secretary of the Committee. The Council expressed the opinion that it is most essential to extend the activities of the EPS to this fast-growing domain of physics.

In view of the "vertical" character of the Specialized Divisions (covering specific fields), and the "horizontal" character of Computational Physics of relevance in practically all the fields of physics covered by the Divisions, it was decided to incorporate the new initiative in the form of an "Inter-Divisional Group" under the name "Computational Physics Group". It was urged that all Specialized Divisions be represented on the Board of this Group, which will operate in a way closely parallel to that of a Specialized Division. An outline of the scope and programme of this Group is given later in this issue.

Financial State of the Society

In considering the financial state of the EPS, which is still far from satisfactory, it must be realized that the sole source of income for the Society at the present time lies in membership fees (from Ordinary and Associate Members). The Society has no working capital at its disposal to carry it through the initial period until the "break-even" point between income and expenses is reached.

The present annual budget (slightly less than 300 000 Sw.frs.) is not higher than was foreseen at the beginning of 1968. At that time, it was estimated that the budget could be covered by equal amounts from the following three sources: a) National Societies and Academies, b) Individual Ordinary Members and c) donations gifts and Associate Membership fees. Of these sources a) has approximately fulfilled expectation, c) can probably be realized within this year, but b), the con-

tributions in fees from Individual Ordinary Members, is lagging behind by a factor of eight. A concentrated effort, with essential help from the National Societies and Academies, must be undertaken to fill the gap in Individual Membership of the EPS. The present deficit arises entirely from the lack of Individual Ordinary Members (see also Europhysics News, No. 7, January 1970).

As this build-up process takes time, we must generate the missing working capital through special appeals to potential Associate Members. The necessity for a European Physical Society is amply demonstrated in its steeply increasing activities through its Specialized Divisions and Advisory Committees. This creates an internal pressure which demands adequate funds to realize the tasks which are calling out for attention.

New Council Delegates of Individual Ordinary Members

In accordance with Article 16b of the Constitution, the number of delegates of Individual Ordinary Members is at least ten percent of the total membership of the Council. This membership has now passed the fifty mark and thus the number of delegates of Individual Ordinary Members had to be raised from five to six. In addition, V.F. Weisskopf (Cambridge, USA) wished to resign from the Council in connection with other pressing duties and, consequently, Individual Ordinary Members were asked in writing to elect two new delegates. Of ten candidates the following two were elected: H.B.G. Casimir (Eindhoven)

E. Burhop (London). Hendrik Casimir, born in 1909, is a Member of the Board of Management of N.V. Philips' Gloeilampenfabrieken, Eindhoven, and Professor of Physics at the University of Leyden (The Netherlands). Eric Burhop, born in 1911, is Professor of Physics at



Erik Rudberg

University College London (UK) and Vice President of the World Federation of Scientific Workers.

Together with G. Bernardini, L. Hrivnak, L. Jansen and A. Kastler, these two new delegates will represent Individual Ordinary Members of the EPS for the period from 1 April 1970 to 31 March 1971. The participation in the ballot was particularly healthy — 339 ballots were received which represents 53 percent of Individual Ordinary Membership.

New President

The Executive Committee and its officers for the year 1970-71 was elected by the Council as follows:

President:	E. Rudberg
Vice-President:	G. Bernardini
Secretary:	L. Jansen
Vice-Secretary:	F. Janouch
Treasurer:	L. Cohen
Vice-Treasurer:	G.J. Béné
Members:	L.A. Artsimovich
	H. Curien
	J. de Boer
	I. Slaus
	G. Sziget

Thus Professor Erik Gustaf Rudberg succeeds Professor Gilberto Bernardini as President of the European Physical Society. Erik Rudberg was born on 17 November 1902 in Stockholm (Sweden). He studied in Stockholm, Göttingen and London. He is now Professor and Secretary at the Royal Academy of Sciences in Stockholm, a member of the Swedish Royal Society of Science and Letters, and Chairman of the IUPAP symbols, units, nomenclature commission.